

Arizona Triennial Review Issues

ADEQ has released a preliminary draft of the revisions to their WQS that they propose to adopt during their triennial review process. The triennial process was to fold in the ongoing processes to adopt implementation procedures (IP) for antidegradation, narrative nutrients, bottom deposits, and narrative toxics standards. It now appears that narrative toxics IP will have to be addressed in a separate stakeholder process.

Key Changes/Issues

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6. Repeal of state-adopted water quality criteria for turbidity and adoption of SSC criteria to protect aquatic life from the adverse effects of suspended sediment. ADEQ to rely on these “default” SSC criteria that apply to all surface waters to protect aquatic life in Outstanding Arizona Waters (OAWs)

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Key Changes/But Not Major Issues

1. Proposed change to use “Outstanding Arizona Waters” (OAW) instead of “unique waters”. This is in line with federal rules and the antidegradation guidance refers to “outstanding national resource waters” when discussing Tier 3 antidegradation protections.

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NonResponsive Record

NonResponsive

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